

ESTIMATES OF ABUSE WITHIN SPECIFIC SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

CATHOLIC CHURCH

BERRY, J. (1992). *LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION: CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN*. NEW YORK, NY: IMAGE BOOKS.

This popular press book written by a journalist provides a detailed account of the "scandal" surrounding the sexual abuse of children in Louisiana between 1984 and 1992. Berry claims there are 400 priests and brothers who have molested minors and estimates that the Church has spent \$400 million in legal, medical, and psychological expenses. The book is divided into three parts. Part one explores the issue of child sexual abuse by clergy in Louisiana and its impact; part two examines the issue of celibacy and hetero/homosexual tension in cleric culture; and the third section illustrates the responses of the Church and the victim rights movement.

JENKINS, P. (1995). CLERGY SEXUAL ABUSE: THE SYMBOLIC POLITICS OF A SOCIAL PROBLEM. IN J. BEST (ED.), *IMAGES OF ISSUES* (PP. 105-130, SECOND EDITION). NEW YORK, NY: ALDINE DE GRUYTER.

This book attempts to examine the reasons why clergy sexual abuse within the Catholic Church has become such a major issue in recent years. However, the author does not provide any empirical data to support his opinion. Jenkins contends that even though this issue has existed for years, it was not until the mid-1980's that it received public attention. This is a result of a shift in the nature of media coverage. An emphasis on "tabloid" reporting and true-crime stories has drawn greater attention to sexual abuse. While the media portrays this "crisis" as being centered on the Catholic Church, Jenkins offered evidence through the citation of liability insurance, which illustrated that there were several hundred cases of sexual abuse involving non-Catholic clergy. He claimed that the view of this issue as a crisis was a result of the publicity allotted to the sensational cases of Gilbert Gauthier and the Mount Cashel orphanage. In conjunction with other highly publicized cases, the media began

to present high estimates concerning the prevalence of abuse, which affected public opinion of the Catholic Church. Professional interest groups have played a part in shaping the image of Catholic clergy abuse as a problem, most notably legal and mental health professionals. Lawyers have encouraged victims to pursue civil suits. This has created a snowball effect in which past victims have now come forward to stake their claim. The Catholic Church is an appealing target because it is a lucrative institution. Thus, it would be more beneficial to sue the Catholic Church, which has a strong economic enterprise, as opposed to a smaller church. Mental health professionals have promoted negative views concerning clergy abuse. The expert witness and victim's self-help groups have increased the notoriety concerning the Catholic Church, which has led to the creation of stereotypes and expectations. These stereotypes influence juries and make it more likely that they will be prepared to find against the Church. Jenkins asserted that special interest groups such as gay rights and feminists have targeted the Catholic Church because of its doctrine. While social ideas concerning women's rights have changed, the Catholic Church has remained adamant in its views concerning divorce, abortion, contraception, women's ordination, homosexuality, and celibacy. These special interest groups shifted the attention from the individual priests to the hypocrisy of the Church and its hierarchy. Thus, the Catholic Church provided these groups with a platform from which they can voice their opinions.

SIPE, A.W.R. (1990). *A SECRET WORLD: SEXUALITY AND THE SEARCH FOR CELIBACY*, 8, 159-187, NEW YORK, NY: BRUNNER/MAZEL, INC.

Chapter 8 of this book, entitled "Priests and Children," discusses pedophilia in the Church based upon the author's experiences as a clinician. In a study, the author found that 2% of Catholic priests could be considered pedophiles, which supports earlier research findings. In addition to that figure, 4% of priests are sexually preoccupied with

adolescent boys or girls during at least one point in their lives. Sipe described the behavior as being either occasional, compulsive, or developmental. When the incident occurs in a developmental sense, the priest acts out once with a child as part of his own developmental experimentation, which has been stunted in some way. Homosexual and heterosexual offenses are evenly distributed, but Sipe contends that the homosexual contact is four times more likely to come to the public's attention. Sipe also asserted that these pedophiles have an attraction to children prior to ordination, but rarely act out extensively prior to entering the priesthood. The chapter also includes a discussion of the legal ramifications of sexual abuse and contends that it is unclear as to who should be held accountable for the misconduct. He notes that at the time of this book's publication, the Church had avoided addressing the sexuality of the clergy and that this in turn has hindered moral development. In addressing the psychological evaluation of sexually offending clergy, Sipe stresses that the following questions must be asked: Is the behavior homosexual or heterosexual; is it compulsive; is it an isolated incident or part of a pattern; and is it fixated or regressed? In discussing the theories of pedophilia, it is noted that a large number of sexually abusive clerics had been victimized as youths. While this is not applicable in every case, sexual victimization as a child may lead the individual to seek refuge in the clergy as a way of denying the reality of life. Sipe contends that the experience of celibacy interacts with these past traumas and can either enhance the memory or stunt the priest's psychosexual development at a preadolescent/adolescent stage, which leads to sexual misconduct. Victim access is discussed and the avenues that may be pursued include selection from schools, altar boys, family, friends, and the congregation. In addition to displaying pedophilic behavior and cognitive distortions, these priests also demonstrated exhibitionistic behavior that was directly linked to their level of psychosexual development (the more immature they are, the more likely they are to engage in this behavior). The effects of sexual abuse on the victims vary, but the impact is long lasting and may result in sexual depersonalization, depression, sexually acting out, and suicide. When a child has been victimized by a priest, the impact of the abuse effects how the child perceives God, the Church,

and the clergy. The abuse also raises the question as to how these institutions will view the victim. This chapter also provides a brief overview of the various therapeutic measures used to treat sexually offending clerics including psychotherapy, behavioral therapy, surgery, and medication. In discussing the reasons why the Church has not openly discussed the issue of sexually abusive priests, Sipe contends that it is because there is a lack of information on pedophilia. This lack of information is intertwined with the Church's system of secrecy concerning sexual matters. The Church managed sexual abuse through the reassignment of priests, sending them on a retreat to repent for their sins, or sending them to a psychiatric institution run by the Church. These measures show a lack of understanding concerning pedophilia and a desire to keep the scandal a secret. In discussing the future of the Catholic Church, Sipe asserted that there are four factors that will continue to affect the problem of pedophilia in the Church. These factors are as follows: the lack of education concerning sexuality and celibacy creates a situation in which adolescence is prolonged/postponed and celibacy becomes a way of hiding from one's problems; the structure of the Church and the seminary tolerates and sometimes encourages sexual regression and fixation; the emphasis upon secrecy hinders accountability; and the lack of sexual education in the Church fosters defenses such as denial, rationalization, and splitting.

OTHER RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

There have not been any empirical studies devoted to ascertaining the prevalence of sexual abuse within other religions. While little has been revealed concerning sexual abuse within the Jewish faith, The Awareness Center is a victim's rights organization for survivors of sexual abuse. On their website (<http://www.theawarenesscenter.org>), these survivors have listed the cases of 40 Rabbis accused of sexual misconduct with adults and children. A search of major U.S. news sources also yielded few results, and articles found are either not empirical or lack specific prevalence details.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

While there are not any empirical studies devoted to understanding the prevalence of sexual abuse in the Boy Scouts, the work of Patrick Boyle is the most comprehensive, albeit dated, information available. A database search of major newspapers illustrates that between 1970 and 2003, 22 incidents have been discussed in various articles. The majority of the cases fit Boyle's findings in that the perpetrators used various grooming tactics in order to coerce the child into sexual acts. The number of known victims for each offender ranged from one to 20, with some victims not coming forward until adulthood. In many cases, the Scoutmaster knew the child's parents and the offenses ranged from inappropriate touching to intercourse. While the majority of the information presented in these articles is scarce, the information indicated that some of the perpetrators also worked as teachers and Catholic priests.

BOYLE, P. (1991, MAY 20). SCOUT'S HONOR: SCOUTING'S SEX ABUSE TRAIL LEADS TO 50 STATES. *THE WASHINGTON TIMES*, p. A1.

In a five-part series, journalist Patrick Boyle explored the prevalence of sexual abuse in scouting through evaluating the confidential files of the organization in 1991. The results of his investigation are also included in his 1994 book, *Scout's Honor: Sexual Abuse in America's Most Trusted Institution*. Between the period of 1971 to 1989, 416 male Scout employees were banned as a result of sexual misconduct. There have been 1,151 known cases of sexual abuse within scouting. Boyle argued that sexual abuse is more common in scouting than accidental deaths or serious injuries combined. During this time, the Scouts claimed that the sexual abuse was not a major crisis. The Boy Scouts had one million adult volunteers and four million Scouts. Boyle found that Scoutmasters perpetrated the majority of the abuse, but assistant Scoutmasters, of which there are about 147,000, were also responsible. All of the victims appeared to come from the Boy Scouts, who range in age from 11 to 17 and numbered 959,000 at the time of this article's publication. It also appears as if the majority of the abuse occurred during camping trips. The four other parts in this series that were reported

during the week of 5/20/91 to 5/24/91 focused on various topics through case study illustration. The stories illustrated how the organization let known child molesters slip through the system and how the information was covered up in a manner that would protect the image of the Boy Scouts. Boyle also discusses the impact of the abuse on the boys through individual narratives. While the information in the confidential files is limited, the effects of the abuse on the children are unknown. However, Boyle asserts that out of the 400 abuse cases he investigated, four Scouts attempted suicide and at least three leaders who were charged with abuse also made suicide attempts. When a Scoutmaster was reported to local Scout officials, they often-times made deals in order to ensure that the scandal would remain a secret. If the Scoutmaster agreed to leave, there would be no police involvement. What the Scouts did not realize is that the offenders were moving away and joining new troops where they continued to offend. Even those offenders who were reported to the Scouts' National Headquarters managed to evade the system and continued to act as Scoutmasters. As public awareness concerning the abuse grew, the Boy Scouts realized the need to combat this problem. Boyle claims that the organization has paid at least fifteen million dollars in order to settle cases out of court, with payments ranging from \$12,000 to \$1.5 million. In cooperation with experts in the field of sexual abuse, the Scouts have developed an extensive training program, which is meant to raise the awareness of both children and Scoutmasters. It has recently become a requirement that all employees must pass a background check in order to work for the Boy Scouts. They have also instituted policies prohibiting homosexual scout leaders, which have come under the scrutiny of various civil rights organizations.

BOYLE, P. (1991, MAY 21). SCOUT'S HONOR PART 2: PEDOPHILIC PREFERENCE IS IN A CLASS ALL ITS OWN. *THE WASHINGTON TIMES*, p. B5.

This part of the series on child abuse in the Boy Scouts focuses on the offender. Boyle argued that for the most part, scouting leaders have tried to protect boys by excluding homosexuals. However, a review of the organization's confidential files revealed that out of 200 cases, 64 offenders were

married/engaged and 18 were divorced. Some of the offenders were involved with the victim's mother at the time of the abuse. Many scout leaders also professed that they had no clear reason to believe that these offenders were homosexual. The author also discusses the process involved in selecting new Scoutmasters, which in the past involved a simple check of references. The methods of seduction are also discussed and include the use of campouts, games, abuse of loyalty and authority, initiation rites, trips alone, physical exams, sleepovers, and awards.

BIG BROTHER ORGANIZATION

The purpose of the Big Brother organization is to provide disadvantaged youths between the ages of seven and 13 with a mentor. Similar to the Boy Scouts, the Big Brother/Sister organization has also experienced incidents of sexual abuse. No official data exists, but a database search of major newspapers revealed six published incidents between 1973 and 2001. As with the Boy Scouts, the offenders hailed from a variety of professions and included a school principal and a naval officer.

BOYLE, P. (1994). *SCOUT'S HONOR: SEXUAL ABUSE IN AMERICA'S MOST TRUSTED INSTITUTION*. ROCKLIN, CA; PRIMA PUBLISHING.

In his book, *Scout's Honor*, Patrick Boyle briefly reviews the work conducted by Donald Wolff. In reviewing nearly 100 cases of sexual abuse in the Big Brother and Sister organization, the largest area of concern rested with the Big Brother organization, in which the majority of the abuse stemmed from the Big Brother-Little Brother relationship. Much like the abuse reported in scouting, the majority of offenders were single and came from various professions. The sexual abuse progressed from inappropriate touching to other sexual acts and the most common situations in which the abuse occurred were camp trips and the trips to the perpetrator's house. These perpetrators also appeared to target emotionally vulnerable children. However, unlike the Boy Scouts or Catholic Church, once criminal charges were filed Wolff found that they often led to confessions or convictions. The review also revealed that many of the perpetrators were

also involved in educating and counseling children as well as scouting. In light of these findings, the Big Brothers have instituted a strict screening process, which involves a criminal background check for all volunteers.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION (YMCA)

There is no record of any empirical data or official reports outlining the prevalence of sexual abuse in the YMCA. Eight articles were found that deal directly with YMCA volunteers molesting children. The perpetrators worked for the organization in various capacities including camp counselors and sports coaches. The offenders targeted both girls and boys and some had a multitude of victims, with one offender claiming he had targeted 20 victims while another had been charged with 75 counts of sexual abuse, including 10 counts of rape. Some of the perpetrators had prior records for sexual abuse and some were employed in schools.

ATHLETIC ORGANIZATIONS

There is no empirical data indicating the prevalence of sexual abuse within sporting organizations. Through a database search of major U.S. newspapers, youth sports teams returned the largest results out of any youth organization. Forty-five articles were devoted to sexual abuse cases in a variety of sports including swimming, basketball, baseball, track and field, football, soccer, hockey, and gymnastics. The majority of the cases illustrated that the perpetrator was somehow involved with a school either as a teacher or principal. Many of the perpetrators appeared to have multiple victims. The offenders also appeared to groom their victims over a period of time. One case involved a coach who was charged with 400 counts of sexual abuse, whereas some of the other perpetrators reportedly had 10 or 12 victims and the behaviors ranged from touching to rape. The victim's families were also charmed in some instances so that the perpetrator could gain their trust and access to the victim. The perpetrators hailed from North America, the UK, and Ireland and a few had been prominent figures

in their respective sport. In many of the cases, the coaches were suspended from the organization or were subjected to criminal charges. The victims ranged in age; however, a majority of them appeared to be in their teens.

CHILD CAREGIVERS

FINKELHOR, D. & ORMROD, R. (2001). CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN BY BABYSITTERS. *JUVENILE JUSTICE BULLETIN*, SEPTEMBER 2001.

In evaluating the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System, the authors examined the prevalence of sexual abuse by babysitters. Babysitters are responsible for 4.2% of all reported offenses for children under the age of six, but sexual abuse outnumbered physical abuse by two to one. Those who are at a high risk of sexual abuse fall within the age range of three to five. Those babysitters reported to the police were predominantly male (77%) and 48% of the offenders were juveniles. The sexual acts committed include forcible fondling (42%), forcible sodomy (11%), forcible rape (8%) and sexual assault with an object (3%). Male perpetrators were more likely to target female victims. The female perpetrators were often juvenile offenders and were more likely to be reported for physical abuse.

FINKELHOR, D., WILLIAMS, L.M., & BURNS, N. (1988). *NURSERY CRIMES: SEXUAL ABUSE IN DAY CARE*. NEWBURY PARK, CA; SAGE PUBLICATION.

This study evaluated substantiated claims of sexual abuse from center-based and family-based day care

institutions. In order to be included in this study, the facility had to cater to children six years of age or younger, of which 270 institutions were identified. Substantiation was based upon the investigations of local agencies including child protection, licensing, and police agencies. The 270 cases illustrated 1,639 victims (484 girls and 269 boys) and 382 perpetrators (222 males, 147 females, and 13 whose gender could not be identified) over the time period of 1983-1985. The authors urge that the data be interpreted with caution due to the fact that some government agencies did not cooperate with the researchers' requests and that the information sought was not always kept in one location and not uniformly organized. However, the researchers were able to estimate the following statistics: 30.7 of every 10,000 centers and 15.3 of every 10,000 families have cases of reported child sexual abuse, 5.5 out of every 10,000 children enrolled in day-care centers and 8.9 children out of every 10,000 children in families are reported to be sexually abused. The researchers concluded that while a day-care center is more likely to be reported for sexual abuse, the risk of a child being abused is actually lower when enrolled in a center than in their own home due to the presence of more children. In evaluating the perpetrators the following relationships were revealed: 16% were directors/owners, 30% were teachers, 15% were nonprofessional child caretakers, 8% were in a non-child care capacity, 25% were family members of the staff, and 5% were outsiders. There also appeared to be a rather high number of female perpetrators involved in day care abuse with 44% of child care workers, 6% of family members, and 6% of multiple perpetrators being female.